

Please replace the paragraph starting on page 5, line 8 with the following new paragraph:

Since this pneumococcal polypeptide was related to protease maturation protein *Lactobacillus paracasei* (Swiss Prot acc. nr. Q02473) (Figure 2) (SEQ. ID. NO: 3), and *Lactococcus lactis subsp. lactis* (Swiss Prot acc. nr. P15294) Figure 3) (SEQ. ID. NO: 4) and *Lactococcus lactis subsp. cremoris* (Swiss Prot acc. nr. P14308) (Figure 4) (SEQ. ID. NO: 5) it was designated the protease maturation protein (Pmp) of *S. pneumoniae*. Also the molecular weight of the protein cut from the acrylamide gel corresponds with the molecular weight of Pmp.

Please replace the paragraph starting on page 9, line 14 with the following new paragraph:

The invention provides for the use of homologous Pmp proteins or fragments thereof of other *S. pneumoniae* species with amino acid sequences or fragments thereof such as peptides that are functionally homologous to the sequence depicted in fig. 1B (SEQ. ID. NO: 2). Said functional homologous peptides can be used in a vaccine for the treatment, preferably the preventive treatment of a wide variety of strains and (sub)species of *S. pneumoniae*.

Please replace the paragraph starting on page 11, line 24 with the following new paragraph:

Figure 1: the *S. pneumoniae* nucleotides 820800-821738 on contig 3836 (<http://www.tigr.org/data/S.pneumoniae/>) (SEQ. ID. NO: 1) (A) and the encoding polypeptide sequence (SEQ. ID. NO: 2) (B) harbouring Pmp. The presumed methionine start codon of Pmp is depicted in bold and underscored.

Please replace the paragraph starting on page 12, line 1 with the following new paragraph:

Figure 2: The protease maturation protein of *Lactobacillus paracasei* (SEQ. ID. NO: 3) (Swiss Prot acc. nr. Q02473).

Please replace the paragraph starting on page 12, line 3 with the following new paragraph:

Figure 3: The protease maturation protein of *Lactococcus lactis subsp. lactis* (SEQ. ID. NO: 4) (Swiss Prot acc. nr. P15294).

Please replace the paragraph starting on page 12, line 5 with the following new paragraph:

Figure 4: The protease maturation protein of *Lactococcus lactis subsp. cremoris* (SEQ. ID. NO: 5) (Swiss Prot acc. nr. P14308).